

BREAKING AMERICA'S GRIP ON THE INTERNET

You would expect an announcement that would forever change the face of the Internet to be a grand affair—but unless you knew where he was sitting, all you got was David Hendon's slightly apprehensive voice through a plastic earbox.

Hendon is the UK Department of Trade and Industry's director of business relations and was in Geneva representing the UK Government and European Union (EU) at the third and final preparatory meeting for November's World Summit on the Information Society. He had just announced a political coup over the running of the Internet.

Representatives from the UK and US, old allies in world politics, sat just feet away from each other, but all looked straight ahead as Hendon explained the EU had decided to end the US Government's unilateral control of the Internet and put in place a new body that would now run this revolutionary communications medium.

The issue of who should control the Net had proved an extremely divisive issue, and for 11 days the world's governments traded blows. For the vast majority of people who use the Internet, the only real concern is getting on it. But with the Internet now essential to countries' basic infrastructure, the question of who has control has become critical.



In the early days, the US Department of Commerce (DoC) pushed and funded the expansion of the Internet, and when the Net became global the DoC created a private company, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), to run it.

The DoC was due to relinquish that control in September 2006, when its contract with ICANN ends. But an extraordinary u-turn by the US Government in June sent shockwaves around the Internet world when the DoC made it clear it intended to retain control of the Internet's root servers indefinitely.

(Source: The Guardian, October 6, 2005)

ASIAN CURRENCY UNIT ON THE WAY

An Asian currency unit is expected to be on trial by the middle of next year, paving the way for a future unified Asian currency, reports International Finance News, citing a senior official of the Asian Development Bank.

The unit will integrate the currencies of 13 members, including mainland China, Japan and South Korea, to be an index to test their currency stability, the Shanghai-based newspaper said. Whether the Hong Kong dollar and New Taiwan dollar will be included is still under study.

The Asian Development Bank will publish daily on its website the exchange rate of the Asian currency unit (ACU) to the US dollar, the euro and the currencies of members.

The ACU will be modelled on the former European currency unit, forerunner of the euro, adopting a basket of currencies to decide its value.

(Source: Shanghai Daily, October 26, 2005)

USA TO IMMUNISE DRUG COMPANIES FROM LIABILITY

A bill recently introduced in the US Senate, the "Biodefense and Pandemic Vaccine and Drug Development Act of 2005" (S. 1873) aims to shortcut the testing procedures for new vaccines and drugs in case of a pandemic and to protect vaccine-makers from legal liability in case the drug causes adverse reactions.

The US National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) has called the bill, which passed out of the US Senate HELP Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness the day after it was introduced, "a drug company stockholder's dream and a consumer's worst nightmare".

The proposed legislation will strip Americans of the right to a jury-heard court case if they are harmed by an experimental or licensed drug or vaccine that they are forced by the government to take whenever Federal health officials declare a public health emergency.

The bill allows for the establishment of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Agency (BARDA) as the single point of authority within the government for R&D into drugs and vaccines in response to bioterrorism and



"Oh, honey, you shouldn't have! A dozen bottles of the last of the world's oil!"

natural disease outbreaks such as the flu. BARDA would operate in secret, exempt from the Freedom of Information Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, ensuring that no evidence of injuries or deaths caused by drugs and vaccines labelled as "countermeasures" will become public.

Nicknamed "Bioshield Two", the legislation is being pushed rapidly through Congress without time for voters to make their voices heard by their elected representatives.

The legislation will eliminate both regulatory and legal safeguards applied to vaccines as well as remove the right of children and adults harmed by vaccines and drugs to present their case in front of a jury in a civil court of law.

(Source: *NVIC press release, October 19, 2005*, <http://www.nvic.org>)

BRAIN CHIPS MAKE UNIVERSAL SOLDIERS ONE STEP CLOSER

Apparently the Pentagon has decided that one of the things its soldiers are missing is brains, or at least the ability to remember details of their training. Could microchips implanted in their brains create super-soldiers?

Researchers at the University of Southern California's bio-engineering department have developed a chip which they claim acts in exactly the same way as the hippocampus, the part of the brain that deals with memory. The chip can send out electrical signals which are similar to how the hippocampus operates.

So far the chip has worked well on dead rats, and the Pentagon hopes that one day experiments will be carried out on soldiers.

Clearly none of these boffins or Pentagon experts reads science fiction, or they would not be doing this.

(Source: *Inquirer, UK, October 25, 2005*)

THE BRAINGATE CHIP

Imagine being able to control your environment simply by thinking. Ten years ago, this technology was thought by many scientists to be impossible because of the complexity of the human brain.

Matthew Nagel, a C4 paralytic (paralysed from the neck down) has been playing pong, drawing circles and manipulating a computer with thoughts alone via the BrainGate. It's a small chip, 2 mm², and is surgically implanted onto the surface of the brain. Extending down into the cortex are a hundred thin,

platinum-tipped electrodes, each a millimetre long and only 90 microns at the base. These pick up the brain's electrical signals which are then transmitted to a computer via slender gold wires connected to each electrode.

This technology promises profound changes for the lives of millions of paralysed and handicapped individuals, but its implications run much deeper and may one day affect us all. Now scientists are reading this cortex-generated electrical information, much like your first CD player read songs. Very soon they plan to be able to "write" information as well, just like a CD burner.

This could change how we communicate: we could think directly at our friends instead of speaking, learn in our sleep and remember perfectly. Our memories could be stored "off line" on some external device. More importantly, the BrainGate would affect how we interact with our environment.

(Source: *PhysOrg News, November 1, 2005*, <http://www.physorg.com/news7746.html>)

EU WINS POWER TO IMPRISON NATIONAL CITIZENS

An unprecedented ruling on 13 September 2005 by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Luxembourg gives Brussels the power to introduce harmonised criminal law across the European Union (EU), creating for the first time a body of European criminal law that all Member States must adopt.

The judgement by the EU Supreme

Court was opposed by 11 EU governments: Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Germany, France, the UK, Spain, Portugal and Greece.

In principle, the judgement gives the EU the power to impose criminal sanctions for all breaches of EU law. It greatly extends the power of the non-elected Brussels-based EU Commission, which would have the exclusive right to propose such criminal sanctions to be adopted by majority vote of the Council of Ministers.

Traditionally the European Court of Justice has worked hand in glove with the Commission, as both are supranational institutions that benefit from increasing supranational powers. In the words of one of its judges, the ECJ is a "court with a mission"—that mission being to extend the supranational powers of the EU and its institutions to the utmost.

The ruling means that the European Commission can propose an EU crime that, if passed by the European Parliament and a qualified majority of Member States, must be adopted by all Member States even though a particular government and parliament may be against it. This means that a particular EU Member State can be forced to introduce a crime into its law if enough other EU States support it. It also gives the Commission the power to compel members to enforce EU criminal law if governments drag their heels or if their courts refuse to sentence people for breaches of EU laws.

(Source: *Team Europe, September 30, 2005*, <http://www.teameurope.info>)



"I used to be a 'convict'. Now I'm a 'spatially circumscribed State customer'."

BRITAIN RECRUITED MUSLIM TERRORISTS, CLAIMS MP

An astonishing claim that M16 recruited Muslim extremists in Britain for terror training abroad has been made by British MP and former cabinet minister Michael Meacher in an article for the *Guardian* (sister paper of the *Asian News*).

The former environment secretary claims that Britain's "overseas" security organisation, M16, set about recruiting UK Muslims, directing them to support US efforts to overthrow communist governments in Afghanistan and Yugoslavia.

He highlights a Delhi-based research foundation that estimates anything up to 200 British Muslims could have undergone training in overseas terrorist camps under the protection of the Pakistani secret service, the ISI, which was backing the armed Islamic insurrection against the Afghan communist regime and its Soviet backers.

Mr Meacher also highlights the case of UK-born Muslim Omar Saeed Sheikh, sentenced to death for the murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002. He writes that Sheikh has been allowed 32 appeals against his sentence, the last being adjourned "indefinitely". He says the same Delhi foundation describes Sheikh as a British agent.

Mr Meacher adds: "This is all the more remarkable when this is the same Omar Sheikh who, at the behest of General Mahmood Ahmed, head of the ISI, wired

\$100,000 to Mohammed Atta, allegedly the leading 9/11 hijacker, before the New York attacks, as confirmed by Dennis Lomel, director of FBI's financial crimes unit."

Mr Meacher's argument is that the UK and US security services do not want a proper investigation into these links because it would expose how they encouraged and helped to recruit Islamic "warriors" when it suited their purposes but that these same forces eventually turned on the West, inflamed by what they saw as anti-Islamic occupations and pro-Israeli international policies.

(Source: *The Asian News*, September 30, 2005, <http://www.theasiannews.co.uk>)

STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISTS BEHIND INDONESIAN GROUPS

Indonesian police or military officers may have played a role in the 2002 Bali bombing, the country's former president, Abdurrahman Wahid, has said in a TV program broadcast across Australia.

In an interview with SBS's *Dateline* program aired on the third anniversary of the bombing that killed 202 people, Mr Wahid said he has grave concerns about links between Indonesian authorities and terrorist groups.

While he said he believes terrorists were involved in planting one of the Kuta nightclub bombs, the second, which destroyed Bali's Sari Club, had been organised by authorities. Asked who he thought had

planted the second bomb, Mr Wahid said: "Maybe the police...or the armed forces. The orders to do this or that came from within our armed forces, not from the fundamentalist people," he said.

The program also claims a key figure behind the formation of terrorist group Jemaah Islamiah was an Indonesian spy. Former terrorist Umar Abduh, who is now a researcher and writer, told *Dateline* that Indonesian authorities have a hand in many terrorist groups.

"There is not a single Islamic group, either in the movement or the political groups, that is not controlled by [Indonesian] Intelligence," he said.

Abduh also told the program his organisation, the Imron Movement, was incited to a range of violent action in the 1980s when the Indonesian military told the group that the assassination of several Muslim clerics was imminent.

Another terrorism expert, George Aditjondro, said a bombing in May 2005 that killed 23 people in the Christian village of Tentena, in central Sulawesi, had been organised by senior military and police officers.

"This is a strategy of depopulating an area and when an area has been depopulated, [people] becoming refugees or becoming paramilitary fighters, then that is the time when they can invest their money in major resource exploitation there," he said. (Source: *The Australian*, October 12, 2005, <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au>)

LIGHT-EMITTING FINGERS

Human hands glow but fingernails release the most light, according to a recent study that found all parts of the hand emit detectable levels of light.

The findings support prior research which suggested that most living things, including plants, release light. Since disease and illness appear to affect the strength and pattern of the glow, the discovery might lead to less-invasive ways of diagnosing patients.

Mitsuo Hiramatsu, a scientist at the Central Research Laboratory at Hamamatsu Photonics in Japan, who led the research, told *Discovery News* that the hands are not the only parts of the body that shine light by releasing photons, or tiny, energised increments of light.

"Not only the hands, but also the forehead and bottoms of our feet emit photons," Hiramatsu said, adding that, in terms of hands, "the presence of photons



"Can we slot something in about close voting counts in US Federal elections?"

means that our hands are producing light all of the time."

The light is invisible to the naked eye, so Hiramatsu and his team used a powerful photon counter to "see" it. The detector found that fingernails release 60 photons, fingers release 40 and the palms are the dimmest of all, with 20 photons measured.

Fritz-Albert Popp, a leading world expert on biologically related photons at the International Institute of Biophysics in Germany, was not surprised by the findings. Popp and his team believe that the light from the forehead and the hands pulses out with the same basic rhythms, but that these pulses become irregular in unhealthy people. A study he conducted on a muscular sclerosis patient seemed to validate the theory.

(Source: *Discovery News*, September 6, 2005, <http://tinyurl.com/d963a>)

QUICK DEATH FOR OFFSPRING OF RATS FED GM SOY

The Russian scientist planned a simple experiment to see if eating genetically modified (GM) soy might influence offspring. What she got, however, was an astounding result that may threaten a multi-billion-dollar industry.

Irina Ermakova, a leading scientist at the Institute of Higher Nervous Activity and Neurophysiology of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), added GM soy flour (5–7 grams) to the diet of female rats. Other females were fed non-GM soy or no soy at all. The experimental diet began two weeks before the rats conceived and continued through pregnancy and nursing.

Ermakova's first surprise came when her pregnant rats started giving birth. Some pups from GM-fed mothers were quite a bit smaller. After two weeks, 36% of them weighed less than 20 grams compared to about 6% from the other groups.

But the real shock came when the rats started dying. Within three weeks, 25 of the 45 (55.6%) rats from the GM soy group died compared to only three of 33 (9%) from the non-GM soy group and three of 44 (6.8%) from the non-soy controls.

Ermakova preserved several major organs from the mother rats and offspring, drew up designs for a detailed organ analysis, created plans to repeat and expand the feeding trial and promptly ran out of research money.

Her findings are hardly welcome by an industry already steeped in controversy. (Source: *GMWatch.com*, Oct 31, 2005)

SELENIUM: GOOD NEWS IN CANCER TREATMENT

This unusual story of a West Australian farmer was told to me by one of the farmer's friends who lives in Melbourne. It is full of happy endings, almost too good to be true.

This farmer was diagnosed with bowel cancer. His doctor-surgeon arranged a date for him to check into hospital to have the cancer removed. In due course on the date set, after he was checked into hospital, the doctor-surgeon visited him in his room to tell him that after reviewing all the tests and X-rays, all concerned agreed that his cancer was inoperable and that all tests indicated his heart was not strong enough to survive such major surgery.

The farmer said, "Doctor, you're telling me there is nothing you can do for me?" "Yes," the doctor said, and then apologised for such a late change of decision. The farmer then requested his wife to go and check him out of hospital and for his son to pack his bag and take it to the car. He said that he would have to go home and treat himself.

For many years this farmer had treated his cattle and sheep for prevention and cure of various ailments. One drench had proved especially effective and that was Selenium Drench Concentrate. He decided to formulate a daily dose for himself based on his own body-weight, as he had so often done for his farm animals.

Over the following few months, he took this dosage on an empty stomach every morning. After several months his wife said, "I think you are getting better! You look good and don't seem to be sick at all. I think you had better visit the doctor and have him check you over!" Which he did. The doctor said that as far as he could examine him externally, the cancer was gone. He told the farmer to go home and enjoy life!

One day shortly after, a well-dressed lady driving an expensive car arrived at the farm. She said, "Your doctor is my doctor and he tells me you cured yourself of bowel cancer. I have bowel cancer and I've come to ask you to share the treatment."

The farmer said, "Woman, it would be worth more than my farm for me to start acting like a doctor! But I know how desperate you are. I'll put the ingredients out and will show you what I mixed up, but I can't give it to you. My wife and I have to do the evening chores—feed the fowls and milk the cows and so on. While we're gone, you can steal the ingredient if you like but I can't give it to you!" That is exactly what the lady did and she treated herself as instructed. Several months later, she returned with bouquets and presents. She told her farmer friends she was cured and given a clearance by their mutual doctor.

Soon after, another well-dressed lady arrived by car at the farmer's house. She had been sent by the first lady. She stated she had bowel cancer and requested the farmer share his treatment with her. He said he would treat her exactly the same as he had treated her friend—which he did with the same excellent results.

Several months later and almost amusingly, the farmer's own doctor arrived at the farm, stating that he had come for more than a social visit because he, too, now had bowel cancer and wanted the farmer to share the treatment with him. Which the farmer did in the same way as for the two ladies. and with the same excellent results.

The friend who conveyed this story to me was a suspected prostate cancer victim having a very high PSA [prostate-specific antigen] count. He immediately went onto the treatment and very quickly his PSA was down to normal. Another of my friends was diagnosed positively as having prostate cancer and was planning surgery. He has been on the selenium treatment, and recently was given a medical all-clear. Friends who have gone on the treatment as a precaution—believing as I do that what will cure will prevent—have found that minor skin cancers on their hands have cleared up.

The treatment as worked out by the farmer is with Selenium Drench Concentrate, which anyone can purchase from veterinary product suppliers. It is liquid selenium. For years, the sale of selenium for human consumption has been prohibited. The active constituent is 10 mg of selenium per mL as sodium selenite. The dosage is one teaspoonful to two litres of water, of which mixture you drink 226 mL or two-thirds of a 400 mL breakfast cup each morning on an empty stomach.

I've been taking it for several years and it certainly does not appear to produce any ill effects.

(Source: *Email from Keith*, dated February 26, 2004, sent to NEXUS Magazine in mid-2005)